

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the instant application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A synthetic oligonucleotide complementary to a portion of the 5' untranslated region of hepatitis C virus and having a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 28, selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 36, 37, 47, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, and 133, as set forth in Table 1A, Table 1B, and Table 1F.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended): A synthetic oligonucleotide comprising a sequence complementary to at least two non-contiguous regions of an HCV messenger or genomic RNA, wherein one of the at least two non-contiguous regions is complementary to a 5' untranslated region of the HCV messenger or genomic RNA, and wherein one of the at least two non-contiguous regions is complementary to a region selected from the group consisting of a 5' untranslated region of the HCV messenger or genomic RNA, and a region within +1 to +48 of the HCV messenger or genomic RNA.

Claim 3. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 2, wherein the sequence is complementary to three non-contiguous regions.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended): A synthetic oligonucleotide according to claim 2, wherein one of the non-contiguous regions is [[the]] a 5' untranslated region.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): A synthetic oligonucleotide according to claim 3, wherein one of the non-contiguous regions is [[the]] a 5' untranslated region.

Claim 6. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 2 having about 18 to about 24 nucleotides.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn): An oligonucleotide according to claim 2, wherein one portion of the oligonucleotide has the sequence GGGGUCCUGGAG (SEQ ID NO:47) or has the sequence CAACACUACUCG (SEQ ID NO:80).

Claim 8. (Original): A synthetic oligonucleotide according to claims 1 or 2 which is modified.

Claim 9. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 8, wherein the modification comprises at least one internucleotide linkage selected from the group consisting of alkylphosphonate, phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, alkylphosphonothioate, phosphoramidate, carbamate, carbonate, phosphate triester, acetamidate, carboxymethyl ester, and combinations thereof.

Claim 10. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 9 comprising at least one phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage.

Claim 11. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 9, wherein the internucleotide linkages in the oligonucleotide are phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

Claim 12. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 8 which comprises at least one deoxyribonucleotide.

Claim 13. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 8 which comprises at least one ribonucleotide.

Claim 14. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 12 which additionally comprises at least one ribonucleotide.

Claim 15. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 14, wherein an oligodeoxyribonucleotide region is interposed between two oligoribonucleotide regions, or the inverted configuration thereof.

Claim 16. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 13, wherein the ribonucleotide is a 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide.

Claim 17. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 14, wherein the ribonucleotide is a 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented): An oligonucleotide according to claim 15, wherein the ribonucleotide is a 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide.

Claim 19. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 14 which comprises at least one 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide at the 3'-end of the oligonucleotide.

Claim 20. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 19 which further comprises at least one 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide at the 5'-end of the oligonucleotide.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended): An oligonucleotide ~~according to claim 14~~ having a nucleotide ~~sequence~~, sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:119-130, ~~as set forth in Table 1A. wherein the oligonucleotide is modified, and wherein the oligonucleotide comprises at least one deoxyribonucleotide and at least one ribonucleotide.~~

Claim 22. (Currently Amended): An oligonucleotide according to claim 2 comprising SEQ ID NO:38, ~~a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, and 67, as set forth in Table 2.~~

Claim 23. (Withdrawn): An oligonucleotide according to claim 2 comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146 and 147, ~~as set forth in Table 1C.~~

Claim 24. (Withdrawn): An oligonucleotide according to claim 3 comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, and 158, ~~as set forth in Table 1D.~~

Claim 25. (Currently Amended): An oligonucleotide according to claim 8 which oligonucleotide is ~~self-stabilized~~ self-stabilized by a loop.

Claim 26. (Withdrawn): An oligonucleotide according to claim 24 having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:131, 132, and 133, ~~as set forth in Table 1B.~~

Claim 27. (Currently Amended): An oligonucleotide according to claim 8, wherein the modification is selected from the group consisting of a nicked dumbbell, a closed dumbbell, 2', 3' and/or 5' caps, additions to ~~[[the]]~~ a molecule at the internucleotide phosphate linkage, oxidation, oxidation/reduction, and oxidative/reductive amination, and combinations thereof.

Claim 28. (Original): An oligonucleotide according to claim 8, wherein at least one nucleoside is substituted by inosine or wherein at least one deoxycytosine is substituted by 5-methyl deoxycytosine.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn): An oligonucleotide according to claim 28, having the ~~nucleotide~~ nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:118 (HCV-245), ~~as set forth in Table 1A.~~

Claim 30. (Currently Amended): An oligonucleotide according to claim 8, wherein the oligonucleotide is modified by incorporating at least one ~~additional triplex-forming strand~~ triplex-forming sequence selected from the group consisting of 3'GGGGG5', 3'CCCCC5', 3'CCCCCCCUCCC5', and 3'CCUCCC5'.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn): An oligonucleotide according to claim 30 having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171 and 172, ~~as set forth in Table 1E.~~

Claims 32-41. (Canceled)

Claim 42. (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~at least two different oligonucleotides according to claim 1~~ SEQ ID NOS: 28 and 68 in a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

Claim 43. (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least a first synthetic oligonucleotide according to claim 2 and a second synthetic oligonucleotide according to claim 2 in a pharmacologically acceptable carrier, wherein the first synthetic oligonucleotide and the second oligonucleotide are complementary to different non-contiguous regions of HCV.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one oligonucleotide according to claim 1 and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one oligonucleotide according to claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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Claim 46. (Withdrawn):       A synthetic oligonucleotide having the nucleotide sequence SEQ  
ID NO: 117 (HCV-242, HCV-243, HCV-244), ~~as set forth in Table 1A.~~